

What to bring for college:

One of the most common questions we hear is, "What should I bring with me to college?" This is a matter of personal preference. Some people prefer to bring very little, while others bring two cars packed to the roof. Two things to remember are: 1) you won't be living alone, and 2) storage is non-existent. In other words, don't bring too much.

For each student, Sparks residence hall rooms will be furnished with a twin bed, mattress, desk, desk chair, dresser and wardrobe/closet. Rooms are also furnished with a mirror and window coverings. Lawson Court residence apartment rooms will be furnished with full bed, mattress, desk, desk chair, dresser and wardrobe/closet. Rooms are also furnished with a mirror and window coverings.

Following is a list of items that may be helpful in determining your personal needs. This list is not comprehensive, and is intended as a guide to get you started.

Necessary Items

- Telephone – Answering machines are not necessary, since each student has a personal, private voicemail account which can be accessed from anywhere on or off campus
- Study lamp (the extra lighting will reduce eye strain)
- Alarm clock
- Twin or full sheet set(s), mattress pad, blankets, bedspread and pillow(s)
- Towels
- Laundry supplies
- Toiletries (a bath caddy is useful)
- Lawson Court residents need a shower curtain
- Laundry hamper and/or basket
- Clothes hangers
- Your health/medical insurance card (carry this in your wallet)
- Prescription medication if you take it (for convenience, many students choose to have their physician transfer their prescriptions to local pharmacies)
- Important telephone numbers such as your family physician and your insurance company
- A trash can for your room
- Cleaning supplies for your apartment, room and bathroom
- Fall and winter clothes, jackets and shoes (although it's hot when you get here, the temperature will start getting cold by the end of Fall Trimester)
- UL approved surge protector power strips (with circuit breaker) to make up for the shortage of outlets in many residence hall rooms

Useful Items

- Refrigerator (Sparks residents) no larger than 4.3 cubic feet
- Plants, posters, photos of family and friends and other decorative items to make your room feel like home; photos also let your new friends see who you are talking about
- Stereo and headphones (small and compact)
- Television, VCR and or DVD
- Stand alone fan
- Computer, printer and surge protector
- Throw rugs or small carpet
- A broom and dust pan, or small vacuum cleaner if you plan to have carpet in your room (a full-size vacuum is available in most residence halls for checkout from the front desk)
- Flashlight
- Plates, cups, and silverware
- A combo key chain and ID card holder (available in our campus bookstore)
- A backpack to carry your books, notebooks and any other provisions for class each day (if you bring a laptop computer, make sure your backpack is equipped to carry the computer)
- A simple first aid kit for minor scrapes and cuts
- Slippers (your residence hall is your home and nobody wears shoes; we don't want your feet to get cold, though)
- Board games, cards, a Frisbee, football, basketball, etc. (we don't expect you to study all the time!)

Prohibited Items

- Microwaves not necessary in Lawson Court one is provided
- Halogen lamps (they are a fire hazard)
- Open coil appliances such as space heaters or hot plates
- Extension cords
- Pets other than fish
- Candles or incense
- Permanent adhesives and nails
- Street or highway signs
- Weapons, firearms, fireworks, or explosives

We recommend that you talk to your roommate when you are planning what to bring to campus. It is strongly recommended to have only one television, one stereo, and one refrigerator per room. Keep in mind that college-owned furniture may not be removed from your room. Mattresses, desks and dressers must be incorporated into your room layout.